

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A vehicle airbag system has an airbag which can be deployed in two stages. In a typical accident situation, a first chamber containing a larger quantity of propellant charge is deployed, and a second chamber containing a smaller quantity of propellant charge is deployed after a delay. If a particular accident situation is detected, such as the out-of-position situation or other person-specific and accident-specific variables, a deployment control device decides whether the ignition sequence is optimal, and reverses the sequence if applicable. The delay can also be varied on the basis of the detected variables.